# U.S., India, Japan increase interoperability during Malabar 2009

**By MC2 Matthew R. White,**
**Navy Public Affairs Support Element**

United States, Indian, and Japanese forces gathered in Sasebo, Japan, April 26 to kick off the trilateral exercise Malabar 2009.

The annual, Indian-led, exercise Malabar is designed to increase the interoperability between navies and strengthen the stability of the Pacific region.

During the exercise, approximately 4,000 personnel from the three participating maritime forces will execute anti-submarine warfare; surface warfare; air defense; live-fire gunnery training; and visit, board, search and seizure (VBSS) evolutions.

"Malabar is our premier blue water exercise with the Indian navy," said Lt. Aaron Kakiel, 7th Fleet's South Asia policy and exercise officer. "We value this opportunity to increase our interoperability with our regional partners."

Traditionally a bilateral exercise between the U.S. and Indian navies, this year's Malabar will also include the Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force (JMSDF).

"Adding the JMSDF is of particular benefit to the U.S. and Indian navies," Kakiel said. "All three navies have unique ways of conducting similar operations, exercising together allows us to help develop common practices."

Sailors will embark on their counterpart's ships during Malabar to enhance the interoperability by sharing information and learning from their allies.

"Sailor exchanges provide a valuable professional experience," said Kakiel. "The free exchange of ideas and trust that develops from these swaps proves invaluable in developing a framework for future engagements."

During Malabar, VBSS teams from the three nations will jointly board *USS Blue Ridge* (LCC 19) and the Indian supply ship *INS Jyoti* (A58) to share with each other how they conduct maritime interdiction operations.

"Taking different teams and integrating them together in a coordinated effort to achieve a common goal is a good way to share knowledge with each other," said Ensign James Lamb, force protection officer for *USS Fitzgerald* (DDG 62). "We have our way of doing things," he said, "but if we see the Indians or Japanese have a better way of accomplishing the same task, we can take there procedure and incorporate it into our own.

The United States will be represented by the 7th Fleet flagship *USS Blue Ridge* (LCC 19), guided-missile destroyers *Fitzgerald* and *USS Chafee* (DDG 90), fast attack submarine *USS Seawolf* (SSN 21) and various P-3C Orion and SH-60 Seahawk aircraft.

**AW2 Alan S. Tenbroeck gets ready for flight quarters as *INS Ranvir* (DDG 54), *USS Fitzgerald* (DDG 62), and J*DS Kurama* (DDH 144), ships from India, U.S. and Japan, pull alongside *USS Blue Ridge* (LCC 19) while the ships take part in Exercise Malabar 2009 April 29.**
**U.S. Navy photo by MC3 Daniel Viramontes**

# Preparation key as Navy readies to review 19,000 chief eligible Sailors

**By MCC(SW) Maria Yager,**
**Navy Personnel Command Public Affairs**

The May 15 deadline is fast approaching for more than 19,000 first class petty officers eligible for the fiscal year 2010 Active Chief Petty Officer (CPO) Selection Board who wish to submit correspondence to the board.

"Last year we received 14,492 packages. So far (as of April 22) we've got 419, but the busiest time is two to three days after the post mark deadline," said Lola McGallagher, a contractor in Navy Personnel Command's (NPC) customer service center who processes and logs selection board packages at NPC.

Selection board packages provide candidates the opportunity to submit any missing documents from the sections of their enlisted permanent personnel record which are viewed by the selection board. Documents reviewed by the CPO board are:

- Procurement, enlistment/reenlistment data
- Classification and assignment
- Administrative remarks
- Separation and retirement
- Miscellaneous professional service history
- Enlisted performance data
- Training and education
- Decorations, medals and awards
- Adverse information

A new program announced by NPC Jan. 14 in NAVADMIN 011/09 makes reviewing records and preparing for selection boards easier by providing Sailors online access to their record.

Web Enabled Record Review (WERR) allows Sailors with Internet access to view the same documents reviewed by selection board members when considering candidates for selection for chief, senior chief and master chief and other selection boards.

**First class petty officers take the 2009 chief petty officer advancement exam in the Alliance Club ball room at CFAY Jan. 15. Eligible candidates must first pass a 200-question test to be considered by a promotion board and then be selected among a Navywide pool of candidates.**
**U.S. Navy photo by MCSN Charles Oki**

All active duty and Reserve personnel with a Bupers On Line account, a Common Access Card (CAC) and a CAC-enabled computer can view WERR available through https://www.bol.navy.mil.

Sailors unable to access WERR may still order a copy of their record on CD Rom from the "Request Record on CD" link https://www.bol.navy.mil.

Candidates are encouraged to review their records before the board and submit any documents that are missing. NAVADMIN 250/08 provides guidance and mailing information for those who wish to submit a package.

"Make sure your full name and complete social security number, not just the last four, are on each document you submit to the board," said McGallagher. "This better enables us to make sure the documents get to the right record."

Sailors can confirm their package has arrived by clicking on the "Selection Board Status" link on the NPC Web site, or by calling 1-866-U-ASK-NPC.

"We get them logged in pretty quickly, but it may take a few days longer when the big rush comes in," said McGallagher.

The selection board reviews the records of all eligible candidates and selects the best and fully qualified Sailors based on considerations identified in the precept. The precept, is a written order signed by the chief of naval personnel (CNP), providing general and specific guidance to the board.

The board convenes June 22 and is the largest selection board conducted in the Navy. It typically lasts five weeks, with their results forwarded to CNP for final approval.